

**Coeditors
Corédacteurs**

Jonathan L. Meakins, MD, *Montreal*
tel 514 843-1504
fax 514 843-1503
email jonathan.meakins@muhc.mcgill.ca

James P. Waddell, MD, *Toronto*
tel 416 864-5048
fax 416 864-6010
email waddellj@smh.toronto.on.ca

**Managing Editor
Rédactrice administrative**

Gillian Pancirov, *Ottawa*

**Book Review Editor
Rédacteur, critiques de livres**

William R.J. Rennie, MD, *Winnipeg*

**Editorial Assistant
Assistante de la rédaction**

Melanie Mooy, *Ottawa*

**Editorial Board
Conseil de rédaction**

Gilles Beauchamp, MD, *Montreal*
Michael Gross, MD, *Halifax*
Kenneth A. Harris, MD, *London*
Geoffrey H.F. Johnston, MD, *Saskatoon*
Réal Lapointe, MD, *Montreal*
William J. Mackie, MB ChB, *Edmonton*
Vivian C. McAlister, MD, *Halifax*
Peter J. O'Brien, MD, *Vancouver*
Eric C. Poulin, MD, *Toronto*
William R.J. Rennie, MD, *Winnipeg*
Norman S. Schachar, MD, *Calgary*

**Section Editors
Rédacteurs des sections**

David P. Girvan, MD, *London*
Andrew W. Kirkpatrick, MD, *Vancouver*
Peter L. Munk, MD, *Vancouver*
Ori D. Rotstein, MD, *Toronto*
Norman S. Schachar, MD, *Calgary*
Nis Schmidt, MD, *Vancouver*
Richard K. Simons, MB, BChir, *Vancouver*
Lawrence A. Stein, MD, *Montreal*



Printed on recycled paper • Imprimé sur papier recyclé

**Editorial
Éditorial**

*East and Central
African Journal
of Surgery:*
**the Canadian
connection**

For this issue of the *CJS*, we have declined to write a specific editorial from the editors. In its place, with our full support, is an editorial by Dr. Ronald Lett, President of the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS), describing a developing link between the *CJS* and the *East and Central African Journal of Surgery (ECAJS)*. The work of the CNIS has been highlighted in the journal in 1995¹ and 2000.²

The G-8 nations have responded to the economic, social and health needs of the African continent with what we hope is a visionary and not self-serving series of programs. Certainly, the announcements emanating from the G-8 summit at Kananaskis, Alta., project a sense of optimism for the future. We hope the link of the *CJS* with the *ECAJS* will play a role, however small, in the sense of enthusiasm for Africa coming from the G-8 summit. We look forward to playing a part in the future.

**Jonathan L. Meakins, MD
James P. Waddell, MD**
Coeditors

References

1. Lett RR, Loutfi A. Essential surgery — respectable again. *Can J Surg* 1995;38:398-9.
2. Lett RR. Canadian Network for International Surgery: development activities and strategies. *Can J Surg* 2000;43:385-7.

The Editorial Board of the *East and Central African Journal of*

Surgery (ECAJS) has been expanded and now includes 3 Canadian surgeons, including the coeditors of the *Canadian Journal of Surgery (CJS)*. Professor Jonathan Meakins is surgeon-in-chief at McGill University Health Centre in Montreal and Professor James Waddell is chair, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Toronto. Their participation recognizes the importance of the *ECAJS* and is a vote of confidence in its potential.

The link of the 2 journals was organized by the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS) within the context of its information exchange project.¹ The CNIS has been collaborating with surgeons of the Association of Surgeons of East Africa since 1995 through activities such as the Essential Surgical Skills and Injury Prevention projects.¹ The lesser known CNIS Information Project has expanded from the unidirectional provision of books and journals to the libraries of partner organizations¹ to that of information accessibility and exchange, as exemplified by the *CJS-ECAJS* link.

Journals from less advantaged environments have an important educational and scientific function. The *ECAJS* can contribute to scientific advancement on issues of global and local importance. The link with the *CJS* provides a means of increasing the resources available to the editors of the *ECAJS* through the input and experience of the coeditors of the *CJS*.

A small journal is positioned to establish author-friendly policies that are a training platform for authors but at the same time improve the quality of science by insisting on a high standard. This is a role shared by the *ECAJS* and the *CJS* in their respective environments. The editors of small journals face the challenge of limited finances and a limited number of scientific contributors and

reviewers. They, therefore, have a role to play as regional educators and scientific mentors. This link will provide mutual support for the editors of both journals in this role, and as reviewers for and contributors to both journals.

One objective of the collaboration

is international recognition of the *ECAJS*. The Canadian experience should help the *ECAJS* attain that status. The editors of the *ECAJS* have agreed to base the collaboration on 10 minimum requirements of good editorial practice (Table 1).² These requirements will be used to assess

progress and determine areas where support can help. The collaboration will benefit the Canadians who participate with their African colleagues, and the *CJS* will have an opportunity to widen its international mandate. Joint editorials and exchange of publications will be possible.

The Canadians are honoured to participate in the growth and improvement of the *ECAJS*. This journal is an important contribution to surgery in Africa and we look forward to its continued success as it becomes recognized internationally.

Ronald Lett, MD, MSc
 President and International Director
 Canadian Network for International Surgery

References

1. Lett RR. Canadian Network for International Surgery: development activities and strategies. *Can J Surg* 2000;40:385-7.
2. Marusic M, Marsic A. Good editorial practice: editors as educators. *Croatian Med J* 2001;42:113-20.

Table 1

| Good Editorial Practice: Minimum Requirements ² | |
|---|---|
| Requirements | Comment |
| 1. Regular publication of the journal | The first and key requirement |
| 2. Style and format | Follow international standards |
| 3. Editorial board | Recruit colleagues dedicated to editorial work; appoint statistics editors; appoint editors to assess ethics and research integrity |
| 4. Editorial documents | Guideline for authors; review form; authorship statement form |
| 5. Manuscript record | Identification number record dates received, reviewed, decision, publication |
| 6. Peer review system | Identify field of expertise; records of manuscripts reviewed; publish reviewer list annually |
| 7. Author and subject index | Publish in the last issue of each year |
| 8. Database on editorial work | Publish every 5 years; number of papers received, reviewed, accepted; basic data on peer review |
| 9. Alert bibliographic databases about journal and editorial work | Provide documents on your editorial practice |
| 10. Continuing education | Editors learn about new developments in journal editing and publication |